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LUSITANIAN HERB.

Spain's Sundew and the African Plant Livingstone Found.

On the dry heaths of Spain and Portugal the eye is surprised to see an undoubted specimen of the marsh plant called sundew. It has long linear red leaves, covered with hairs and dew-drops. Entrapped insects abound. But the heath is dry. The plants around have hard leaves like heather or cranberries. They are, in botanists' slang, xerophiles, and no marsh plants are visible. Has a drosera, or drosophyllum, for so the Lusitanian herb is named, forgotten its nature? If so, whence the supply of water for the glands? It is not so. Drosophyllum has not forgotten the family traditions, but has a long taproot, which extends six, eight or ten feet through the surface soil, usually dry ground, to the stream of water which trickles underneath. Like all its congeners, it is living in contact with water, though its associates on the surface have their roots in arid grounds.

In Britain there are two, perhaps three, species of the sundew (drosera), distinguished by the leaves, which in the one are round, on a hairy stalk, and in the other long and narrow, on a smooth peduncle. Both are common in the marshy lands of Scotland, and the round leaved variety is common in England where the ground is favorable.

As a worldwide plant the sundew is one of those plants which at times are met suddenly by wanderers in the wilderness and recall to their minds the distant and sweet scenes of home. A species of the drosera—and, if we do not err, the very species may be seen in the botanic gardens of Edinburgh—gave a similar delight to David Livingstone in one of his first great journeys.

In June, 1855, he was making his way from the west to the east coast of Africa and had reached the marshy plateau of the central watershed, near Lake Dilolo. "While passing across these interminable looking plains another beautiful plant attracted my attention so strongly that I dismounted to examine it. To my great delight I found it to be an old home acquaintance, a species of drosera closely resembling our own sundew (Drosera anglica). The flower stalk never attains a height of more than two or three inches, and the leaves are covered with reddish hairs, each of which has a drop of clammy fluid at its tip, making the whole appear as if spangled over with small diamonds. I noticed it first in the morning and imagined the appearance was caused by the sun shining on drops of dew, but as it continued to maintain its brilliancy during the heat of the day I proceeded to investigate the cause of its beauty and found that the points of the hairs exuded pure liquid in apparently capsules of clear glutinous matter. They were thus like dewdrops preserved from evaporation. The clammy fluid is intended to entrap insects, which, dying on the leaf, probably afford nutriment to the plant."

Livingstone, with the intuition of a powerful mind, strikes on the peculiar habit of the drosera which explains its color, its glandular excrescences, its worldwide extension and the special interest which it has excited among students such as Mr. Darwin. It feeds on insects. It lives not, as other plants, on the pure minerals latent in earth, air and water, but on the same diluted through a body which once had life. It is a plant with something of the habit of an animal. The conspicuous ruddy color attracts the insect, which is caught in the sticky liquor and impaled on the sharp hairs. The peculiar nutriment gives the plant an easy sustenance. It has no rivals; it has not the same fierce struggle to maintain its ground that the tough rooted plants of the hillside endure, before which the tender succumb. Perched on the moss, it draws in by its roots a ceaseless supply of water and is sought by a food which is useless to other plants; hence it has little need for variation, and, granting marshy land, there it finds a home.—Scotsman.

Not of Much Account.

The lord chief justice of England used to sing in the choir of a parish church. A woman once asked the verger to point out Sir Richard Webster as he then was. The verger replied, "Well, ma'am, that's the vicar and them's the curates and I'm the verger, but as for the choir, as long as they does their dooty we don't inquire into their hantecedents!"

Stupid.

"I wish I was half as beautiful as Miss Brown," remarked the fair Edith to Mr. Green.

"Well, you are, you know," replied Green, thoughtlessly.

Then he wondered why she suddenly rose and left him.

Delicate Operation.

"Yaas," suddenly declared Cholly Braneless, "I'm going to work. I've made up my mind."

"You have?" exclaimed Miss Peppery. "Mr. What a delicate operation!"—Catholic Standard and Times.

Bringing It Home.

Her Father—What are you and young Shortleigh going to live on in case you marry? His Daughter—Well, if you must know, papa, look in the mirror.

Egyptian Onions.

Egypt has been regarded by some people as the land of pyramids and mummies only, but it has from time immemorial had a reputation for onions. Ancient Egyptians swore by the onion and regarded the plant as sacred. The inscription on the pyramid of Cheops tells us that the workmen had onions given to them, and from the Bible we learn that the Hebrews, when slaves under Pharaoh, enjoyed these bulbs, and that when far away they remembered "the leeks and the onions and the garlic." The Egyptian onion is a handsome and useful vegetable, and by selecting the best strains of seed the quality tends, year by year, to improve. The Egyptian knows two varieties, the "Baali" and the "Miskaoui," but supplies of the latter kind are seldom sent abroad, as they absorb so much moisture from the frequently irrigated ground in which they are grown that they do not stand a sea voyage well. The "Baali" onion is the more popular Egyptian onion and is grown in yellow soil, which is sparingly watered while the bulbs are maturing, in order that the onions may stand a lengthy sea voyage with little risk of sprouting.

Cheap Living in Norway.

"It is a good scheme," said a rich man, "to spend the summer in Norway. The Norwegian climate is superb, the scenery is grand and the living is cheap—a dollar a day at the hotels and carriages at a half dollar a day. One fine thing about Norway is that in the summer the night only lasts a couple of hours, and if you go as far as the North cape there is no night at all, but the sun circles round and round the horizon and never sinks below. The Norwegian rivers abound in fish, and any one is free to angle for trout in them. The salmon rivers, though, are strictly preserved. Some of the salmon rivers are very fine and rent for as much as \$2,000 a year. I know a man who has a river only two miles long that he pays \$1,800 for. He often gets fish sixty or seventy pounds. The day I called on him his wife came in with a forty pounder, a twenty-two pounder and a fifty-ounce pounder that she had caught herself within three hours."

A Forest of Giants.

It is almost impossible for one who has seen only the eastern or Rocky mountain forests to imagine the woods of the Pacific coast. Pictures of the big trees are as common as postage stamps, but the most wonderful thing about the big trees is that they are scarcely bigger than the rest of the forest. The Pacific coast bears only a tenth of our woodland, but nearly half of our timber. An average acre in the Rocky mountain forest yields one to two thousand board feet of lumber; in the southern forest, three to four thousand; in the northern forest, four to six thousand. An average acre on the Pacific coast yields fifteen to twenty thousand. Telescope the southern and Rocky mountain forests, toss the northern on top of them and stuff the central into the chinks, and acre for acre, the Pacific forest will outweigh them all.—American Magazine.

Stains on Books.

Ink stains may be removed from a book by applying with a camel's hair pencil a small quantity of oxalic acid diluted with water and then using blotting paper. Two applications will remove all traces of the ink. To remove grease spots lay powdered pipeclay each side of the spot and press with an iron as hot as the paper will bear without scorching. Sometimes grease spots may be removed from paper or cloth by laying a piece of blotting paper on them and then pressing the blotting paper with a hot iron. The heat melts the grease, and the blotting paper absorbs it.

The Little Toe to Go.

A comparative anatomist says that the little toe has got to go; that it is a useless appendage, already showing signs of degeneration or withering away. It is proved that the horse, in the course of several centuries, has dropped four toes and now travels on one, and some think that man's pedal extremities are bound to follow a similar line of evolution. In the horse it is the middle digit which has survived as the fittest. In man it will be the first or great toe.

In No Hurry.

An old citizen who had been hen-pecked all his life was about to die. His wife felt it her duty to offer him such consolation as she might and said: "John, you are about to go, but I will follow you."

"I suppose so, Manda," said the old man weakly, "but so far as I am concerned you don't need to be in any blamed hurry about it!"

Past, Present and Future.

Mrs. D. Vorces—If I could only forget the past! But, alas, it is ever before me! Mrs. Oldun—You'll have a sad future with your past always present. Take my advice and leave the past behind for the present and live in the future for the future and not in the past.—Life.

Those who marry for money almost invariably earn it.

How Emery Is Quarried.

Emery comes from the island of Naxos, in the eastern Mediterranean, whence it has been exported for the last two centuries or more. The beds are in the northeast of the island, the deposit descending into some of the neighboring islands, the emery being found in lenticular masses, resting on layers of schist in limestone, almost identical with Parian marble, the finest marble known, which comes from the island of Paros, close by. There are about 300 men engaged in the trade, all of whom have to be married before they are admitted to the fraternity. The material is much too hard to be dug out or even blasted. Great fires are lighted round the blocks till the natural cracks expand with the heat, and levers are then inserted to pry them apart.

This system is continued until the blocks are reduced in size to masses of a cubic foot or less, and they are then shipped as if they were coals. There are said to be 20,000,000 tons yet available at Naxos. It is one of the hardest substances yet known, coming next to the diamond, and among its crystalline forms known to the jewelers are the ruby and the sapphire.

Lighting a Pipe.

A smoker who started to light his pipe on the street turned to his companion and said: "A man told me the other day how to light an ordinary match in a high wind. Let me show you."

There was a stiff breeze blowing. The demonstrator took from his pocket an envelope, struck a parlor match on a rail and shielded it inside of the envelope, facing the wind as he did so. The match burned with hardly a flicker, and the man who held it puffed on his pipe with great satisfaction.

"That's a trick worth knowing," he remarked. "Here's another. Sometimes you get a spark on top of your pipe which the most vigorous puffing fails to spread over the surface of the tobacco. In that case take a piece of paper of almost any kind and hold it down in the spark. This will spread the fire and give you the sort of light a pipe smoker wants."—Providence Journal.

Raking Grass After Mowing.

Some persons advise raking after each mowing. I do not, because the clippings drop down into the grass and form a mulch, which I consider of great benefit. They also help to fertilize the soil. The lawn that is not mowed often enough will not look well after you have been over it with the mower, because there was growth enough to partially hide the sward upon which it falls. This will wither and turn brown in a day or two and greatly detract from the beauty of the lawn. But if you keep your lawn well mowed—and that means going over it at least three times a week in ordinary seasons—the amount clipped off at each mowing will be so slight that there will not be enough of it to show. Let the knife blades be set high enough to leave at least two inches of the foliage.—Outing Magazine.

The Coyote.

One of the most interesting wild animals is the prairie wolf, known in Mexico as the coyote and in the old world as the jackal. It is thirty-six to forty inches long, with a tail measuring sixteen to eighteen inches in length. The color is usually a dull, yellowish gray on the back and sides, with black cloudings. The underpart and inside of the limbs are of a dirty white tint. The voice is a sort of snapping bark, and for this reason the animal is known as the "barking wolf." It is found on the western plains, extending from Mexico to latitude 55 degrees north. It hunts in packs and is very fleet.

A Good Color.

Negroes use the same phrases they hear whites use, often with amusing application. This conversation, overheard in the streets of a southern city, is related in Lippincott's Magazine: "Howdy, Mis' Mandy? How is you?" called one dusky aunty to another. "Oh, I jes' tollable, Mis' Johnson. How you feelin'?" was the response. "Why, I's a-feelin' mighty peart, I is," confided Mrs. Johnson. "I suttlenly does feel fine." "Wellum, yo' sho' is lookin' well," agreed her friend. "Yo' color's so good."

Proxy Husbands in Turkey.

Divorces are easy to obtain in Turkey, and a husband and wife may marry three times. If they wish to marry a fourth time, the woman must go through the formality of marrying another man and then of being divorced. This custom has given rise to a curious profession—that of proxy husbands. Such men are generally blind and have no hesitancy in relinquishing their brides for a money consideration.

He Has.

"Pa, what does savoir faire mean?" "Well, I don't know that I can explain it exactly, but the man who can look tickled and interested when somebody starts to tell a story that he has heard about twenty times before has 'all right.'"—Chicago Record-Herald.

It is a wise father who greases the hinges of the front gate.

Eating Slowly.

The opinion that hurry in eating is a prolific cause of dyspepsia is founded on common observation. The ill results of bolting food have been attributed to the lack of thorough mastication and to the incomplete action of the saliva upon the food. Two-thirds of the food which we eat is starch, and starch cannot be utilized in the system as food until it has been converted into sugar, and this change is principally effected by the saliva. But there is a third reason why rapidity of eating interferes with digestion. The presence of the salivary secretion in the stomach acts as a stimulus to the secretion of the gastric juice. Irrespective of the mechanical function of the teeth, food which goes into the stomach incompletely mingled with saliva passes slowly and imperfectly through the process of stomach digestion. Therefore, as a sanitary maxim of no mean value, teach the children to eat slowly, and in giving this instruction by example the teacher as well as the pupil may benefit.

Discrimination in Banks.

The fact appears not to be generally known that financial institutions extend courtesy toward each other by according messengers bearing notes, drafts or checks precedence in line at paying tellers' windows regardless of the time of day or the rush of business. An unusually long waiting list was in evidence at the withdrawal window of a bank near Union square the other afternoon, when, a few minutes before closing hour, 3 o'clock, a dapper youth elbowed right of way for himself, at the same moment taking from his coat pocket the conventional foot long document receptacle chained to his belt. A couple of impatient men on the line registered vigorous protests, but that was all the good it did them.—New York Press.

In Trade.

Miss Gusher—That is Lord Noodlehead. He made his money in trade. Miss Slusher—What line? Miss Gusher—Matrimonial. He traded his title for an heiress.

All serious souls are better believers in immortality than we can give grounds for.—Emerson.

English "As She Is Wrote."

Some ludicrous mistakes are made by some of the French-Canadian people in our New England cotton mill towns in their attempt to master English.

One summer a grain dealer in Somersworth, N. H., received a written order from one of his French customers, which read as follows.

"Please send
"I bag hole corn.
"I mx field.
"5 pounds acid."

The clerk, who has had many years' experience with these people, said at once, "Send him a bag of whole corn, a bag of mixed feed and five pounds of grass seed, or, as the French people put it, 'hayseed.'"

And he was right. At another time an order was received for a bag of "corn broke," and at still another an order for a bag of "corn not broke."—Boston Herald.

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